



WINTER ENERGY SAVINGS

ICC SMART TIPS



Now is the time to prepare your home against extremely cold temperatures this winter. By following a few easy tips, you can stay comfortable while saving energy and money to heat your home.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat at 68 degrees while you are awake and home, lower at night and when you are away.
- You can save 10% a year on cooling and heating if you set your thermostat back 7%-10% for 8 hours a day from its normal setting.
- Water heating accounts for about 18% of your home's energy use. By turning down your water heater to 120 degrees you could save 6-10% each year.

*U.S. Department of Energy
& U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency

STEPS TO TAKE NOW

- Cover the inside of drafty windows with heavy plastic and seal tightly to the frame to avoid air infiltration. Check exterior door and window frames for leaks, use caulk or weather stripping to seal.
- Use insulated curtains, shades or other energy-efficient window treatments.
- Schedule a maintenance service call for your heating system. Be sure to change filters on furnace and heat pumps at least once a month. For wood and pellet-burning heaters, clean the flue vent regularly, and clean the interior of appliances with a wire brush.
- If you have an older water heater tank, consider adding an insulated jacket or blanket. Insulating a water tank can save between 7 – 16% in water heating costs.
- On sunny days, allow natural light to filter in south-facing windows to help warm your home.
- Reverse the direction of ceiling fan blades in the winter to circulate warm air.
- If you have a fireplace, keep the damper closed unless a fire is burning.
- If using the fireplace, close off the room if possible, open a nearby window slightly, and lower your thermostat setting between 50-55 degrees.
- Lower your holiday decorating costs by using LED holiday light strings.

For more information and tips, visit the U.S. Department of Energy website at:
www.energy.gov/energysaver/fall-and-winter-energy-saving-tips

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